

The Naval Research Information System (NAVRIS)

The Naval Research Information System is a new Oracle based management information system recently implemented at the Office of Naval Research (ONR). The switch over to the Oracle COTS product provides a more stable environment, reducing the risk, time, and costs associated with managing and maintaining the custom code of the previous government management information system. Changes in business practices and requirements can be accommodated with configurable changes to the software instead of changes to program software source code, making it more efficient to manage changes in corporate business needs and requirements.

ONR changed its business practices in order to implement the NAVRIS in February 2006. The design and integration of the internal financial management allocation system into NAVRIS will eliminate reconciliation problems with the official accounting system. Once allocations are loaded into NAVRIS, the workflow process begins when the program officer creates a change request to fund an on-going or new research project which then flows to the appropriate approving officials. Once the request is approved, it is electronically transmitted to the appropriate comptroller staff to perform the fiduciary review and when approved, the action is sent to the official accounting system for commitment. If the fund usage document is going to a government activity, the appropriate document is generated via system. If a grant or contract has to be prepared, the request is forwarded onto the appropriate contract negotiator for action with the final result of the award being prepared by NAVRIS. There is also an interface to the accounting system that provides real time data. ONR is the only budget submitting office to implement this type of interface.

While ONR has encountered some initial implementation challenges (for example - an interface problem with the accounting system, and a personnel learning curve normal to any new system implementation) NAVRIS will provide more accurate financial management data for leadership to make decisions. For instance, we are currently developing a reconciliation process for commitments and obligations that will create an automatic upload into NAVRIS of all obligations that were created by other commands against an ONR line of accounting. ONR's document management system will link a copy of the actual contract, grant or funding document to the NAVRIS document number that can be retrieved with a click of a button. NAVRIS will also allow for adhoc queries that will allow ONR to pull up data by performing activity, state, etc. on an as needed basis.

For more information contact:

Pat Haag, Lead Systems Accountant

703-696-6689 or email patricia_haag@onr.navy.mil

Comptroller Division

Office of Naval Research

(703) 696-6689